

Message Text

SECRET

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10
ACTION SS-25

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O P 120843Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE
USSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO

S E C R E T SAIGON 4850

EXDIS-MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2. DECLASSIFICATION DATE IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE
TAGS: MOPS, VS
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE--SUMMARY FOR PERIOD
ENDING NOON APRIL 12.

WARNING--SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED/
NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION.

1. GENERAL.

FOLLOWING ASSAULTS THROUGHOUT APRIL 11 AROUND XUAN LOC, THE NVA
BROKE OFF THEIR ATTACKS, LEAVING THE GVN IN CONTROL OF THE CITY.
CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN VERY HEAVY FOR THE COMMUNISTS IN THE
FIGHTING. AN NVA ROADBLOCK REMAINS ON ROUTE 1 BETWEEN THE
INTERSECTION OF ROUTES 1 AND 20 AND XUAN LOC, BUT AT THE PRESENT
TIME THE SITUATION IS QUIET THROUGHOUT MR-3. THE 5TH NVA

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DIVISION HAS TAKEN HEAVY CASUALTIES IN REPEATED CONTACTS WITH GVN

FORCES IN SOUTHERN MR-3 AND NORTHERN MR-4. THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN THE DELTA DECREASED, BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL MAJOR CONTACTS. ROUTE 4 IN VINH LONG PROVINCE HAS BEEN CUT BY FIGHTING.

2. MR-3.

THE SITUATION IN MR-3 IS QUIET AT THIS TIME, FOLLOWING THE BREAKOFF BY NVA UNITS OF THEIR ATTACK AT XUAN LOC THE EVENING OF APRIL 11. GVN FORCES REMAIN IN CONTROL OF THE CITY, AND REINFORCEMENTS WERE LIFTED INTO XUAN LOC DURING THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 11. THE GVN HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CLEAR THE NVA ROADBLOCK ON ROUTE 1 BETWEEN THE JUNCTION OF ROUTES 1 AND 20 AND THE CITY OF XUAN LOC.

NVA CASUALTIES AND EQUIPMENT LOSSES HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL DURING THE THREE DAYS SINCE THE ATTACK ON XUAN LOC BEGAN. ESTIMATES ARE THAT THE NVA HAS LOST 704 KILLED, 4 CAPTURED, 243 INDIVIDUAL AND CREW-SERVED WEAPONS TAKEN, 9 TANKS AND 9 TRUCKS DESTROYED. THE GVN LOSSES HAVE BEEN MODERATE.

EARLIER REPORTS THAT THE NVA WERE IN CONTROL OF ROUTE 20 NORTH OF ROUTE 1 WERE INCORRECT. THE GVN RETAINS CONTROL OF MOST OF THAT ROAD AS FAR NORTH AS KIEM. TAN AND CONTROLS KIEM TAN ITSELF.

GENERAL TOAN, MR-3 COMMANDER, FEELS THAT THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS, BUT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HE CAN DEAL WITH THE CURRENT THREAT.

HE HAS WITHDRAWN THE REMAINING TWO TASK FORCES OF THE 3D ARMORED BRIGADE FROM TAY NINH TO COMMIT THEM TO THE XUAN LOC THEATER. HE REALIZES THAT THIS MAY RESULT IN NVA ATTEMPTS TO CUT THE ROAD TO TAY NINH, BUT FEELS THAT HE MUST TAKE THAT CHANCE.

PROVINCE CHIEF OF BINH THUAN REPORTS THAT HE BELIEVES HE CAN HOLD OUT IN PHAN THIET ENCLAVE FOR ONE OR TWO MORE DAYS BEFORE BEING OVERRUN BY NVA. AFTER TAKING THAN TIAO DISTRICT TOWN APRIL 8 THREE NVA REGTS PLUS TANKS AND ARTILLERY HAVE BEEN STEADILY APPLYING PRESSURE ON TERRITORIAL FORCES DEFENDING PHAN THIET. TERRITORIAL FORCES HAVE BEEN FIGHTING WELL.

BIEN HOA AIRBASE RECEIVED SIX 122 MM ROCKETS APRIL 12, BUT NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE RESULTED.

3. MR-4.

THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN MR-4 DROPPED DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS, BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL MAJOR CONTACTS. THE 5TH NVA
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DIVISION CONTINUED TO SUFFER HEAVY CASUALTIES IN SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH GVN FORCES, AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF 5TH DIVISION REPORTED KILLED HAD REACHED 243 WITH 9 CAPTURED.

ACTIVITY IN VINH LONG INCREASED SHARPLY EARLY APRIL 12. NVA FORCES SHELLED AN RF TRAINING CENTER, AND ATTACKED AN RF BAN REAR BASE AND BA CAUG COMPOUND, ALL LOCATED INH BINH MINH DISTRICT. ALL GVN UNITS ARE HOLDING, BUT THE FIGHTING HAS CLOSED ROUTE 4 IN THE DISTRICT. THE NVA ALSO ATTEMPTED TO ATTACK TRA

ON DISTRICT TOWN, USING CIVILIANS AS A HUMAN SHIELD. THE
CIVILIANS DISPERSED WHEN FIRING STARTED, AND THE NVA ATTACKERS
FLED.

4. ICCS.

ACCORDING TO RVN DEL TO TPJMC, ICCS DELEGATIONS AS OF
APRIL 12 HAD PHASED DOWN TO FOLLOWING NUMBERS: IRANIANS 24,
INDONESIANS 34, HUNGARIANS 81, POLES 102.
MARTIN

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NNN

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